

Asked by:

Member for Great Slave

June 1, 2023

## **Government of the Northwest Territories** **Intervention Challenging Federal Law C-92**

The Government of the Northwest Territories intervened in Attorney General of Quebec et al v. Attorney General of Canada which is a challenge to a federal law, C-92, which provides for First Nation, Inuit and Métis governments to implement their own child welfare laws. My questions are for the Premier:

1. What was the legal basis and rationale for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) intervening in this case before the Supreme Court of Canada;
2. How does the GNWT justify its intervention in this matter when the public position of the GNWT has been in support of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's (IRC) child welfare law;
3. What direct engagements and/or consultations did the GNWT undertake with the IRC or other Indigenous governments prior to making the decision to intervene in this case before the Supreme Court of Canada;
4. Both the IRC and federal government have expressed their frustration and disappointment with the GNWT's intervention in this case. What direct steps have been taken to engage with the IRC and Canada on the position taken by the Government; and
5. How does the GNWT rationalize the position taken in its intervention in this case with its intention to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as law in the Northwest Territories, in particular with articles 21 and 22?